

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A steam cooker, comprising:
 - a steam generator for generating steam;
 - a steam temperature-raising device for raising a temperature of steam coming from the steam generator; and
 - a heating chamber in which an object to be cooked is heated by steam supplied from the steam temperature-raising device,said steam generator including:
 - a pot to which water is supplied;
 - a heater placed in the pot; and
 - a plurality of state judging devices placed in the pot and judging an exposed state of the heater from the water in the pot.
2. (Withdrawn) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein
 - the pot of the steam generator has a planar shape of generally an elongated rectangle, and
 - the plurality of state judging devices are placed at opposed side surfaces in the pot.
3. (Withdrawn) The steam cooker according to claim 2, wherein
 - the opposed side surfaces in the pot at which the plurality of state judging devices are placed correspond to short sides of the elongated rectangle of the pot.

4. (Withdrawn) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein
at least one of the plurality of state judging devices is a water level sensor.

5. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The steam cooker according to claim 4,
~~claim 4,~~ wherein

the water level sensor is a self-heating thermistor.

6. (Currently Amended) A steam generator, comprising:
a pot to which water is supplied;
a heater placed in the pot;
a water level sensor that detects a level of the water contained in the pot;
a temperature sensor that detects a temperature inside the pot; and
a controller that controls an amount of water in the pot ~~detects whether the heater has~~
~~been exposed from the water~~ based on an output from the water level sensor and an output from
the temperature sensor so as to maintain the heater submerged in the water,
wherein the water level sensor is a self-heating thermistor, and
wherein the controller judges whether the heater is submerged in the water or not by
obtaining a reference value based on the output from the temperature sensor and comparing the
output from the water level sensor with the reference value.

7. (Currently Amended) The steam generator according to claim 6, wherein
the pot has a planar shape of generally an elongated rectangle, and

~~the water level sensor and the temperature sensor plurality of state judging devices are~~
placed at opposed side surfaces in the pot.

8. (Currently Amended) The steam generator according to claim 7, wherein
the opposed side surfaces in the pot at which the water level sensor and the temperature
~~sensor plurality of state judging devices~~ are placed correspond to short sides of the elongated
rectangle of the pot.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The steam generator according to claim 6, wherein the
steam generator is provided in a steam cooker, the steam cooker including,

a steam temperature-raising device for raising a temperature of steam coming from the
steam generator, and

a heating chamber in which an object to be cooked is heated by steam supplied from the
steam temperature-raising device.

12. (Currently Amended) The steam generator according to claim 6, further
comprising:

a pump that supplies water into the pot,

wherein the controller operates that pump when the controller determines that the level of the water is below the heater ~~has been exposed from the water~~.

13. (Previously Presented) The steam generator according to claim 6, further comprising:

a partition plate disposed between the water level sensor and the heater to prevent water bubbles generated by the heater from making contact with the water level sensor.

14. (Currently Amended) The steam generator according to claim 13, wherein the partition plate defines a space ~~that defines a space~~ for accommodating the water level sensor while allowing the water in the pot to enter into the space.

15. (Previously Presented) The steam generator according to claim 13, wherein the partition plate is spaced apart from the heater.

16. (Previously Presented) The steam generator according to claim 6, wherein the controller determines that the pot has been tilted based on the output from the water level sensor and the output from the temperature sensor.

17. (Previously presented) The steam generator according to claim 6, wherein
the heater has substantially flat configuration and placed horizontally inside the pot, and
at least one of the water level sensor and the temperature sensor is disposed above an upper
surface of the heater.

18. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A steam cooker, comprising:
the steam ~~the steam~~-generator according to claim 6;
a steam temperature-raising device for raising a temperature of steam coming from the
steam generator; and
a heating chamber in which an object to be cooked is heated by steam supplied from the
steam temperature raising device.

19. (New) The steam generator according to claim 6, wherein
the water level sensor is provided at a position higher than the heater;
the temperature sensor is provided at a height substantially the same as the water level
sensor with respect to the heater;
the reference value is used to judge whether the temperature detected by the self-heating
thermistor that is the water-level sensor is a temperature of the water or a temperature of the air;
and
the controller controls the amount of water in the pot based on a result of the judgment
using the reference value so as to maintain the water level sensor and the temperature sensor
submerged in the water.